(e) and (f) Steps taken by the Government to increase the production of edible oil in the country include enhanced incentives to the farmers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds, implementation of Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), in certain States, financial assistance for Oil Palm Development, assistance provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, integrated pest management etc.

Some of the steps proposed/taken are:

(i) Import of oilseeds/edible oils except copra/coconut oil has been allowed on Open General Licence (OGL).

(ii) Import duty on certain vegetable oils of edible grade intended for manufacture of refined oil/vanaspati is levied at a concessional rate.

(iii) Import duty on certain crude vegetable oils of edible grade has been kept low as compared to refined oils to facilitate raw material availability.

(iv) In order to encourage production of solvent extracted oils in the country and to promote export of extractions, excise duty on food grade hexane has been reduced from 32% to 16%.

(v) Excise duty on refined edible oils/vanaspati/interesterified fat etc. has been withdrawn.

(vi) Import duty on vanaspati, bakery shortening, interesterified fat, margarine has been raised from 30% to 80%.

(vii) In order to harmonize the interests of farmers, processors and consumers, the import duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

Wheat import

†641. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wheat imported by Government during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) the names of Government agencies which imported this wheat and the price at which the same was given to different Government and non-Governmental establishments;

(c) if so, whether any irregularity was found in this transaction; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There was no import of wheat on Government account during the year 2005-06. During the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

year 2006-07, a quantity of 54.54 lakh MTs of wheat was imported against the contracted quantity of 55.00 lakh MT (upto May, 2007).

(b) The State Trading Corporation of India Limited (A Government of India Enterprise) imported the wheat on Government account. Imported wheat is released to the State Governments or their nominees against Government of India allotments under Targeted Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes at the Central issue Prices enclosed as Statement (*See* below). Imported wheat is not released to non-Government establishments.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Central issue prices of wheat

(Rate: Rupees/Quintal)

Name of the scheme	
Above Poverty Line (APL)	610
Below Poverty Line (BPL)	415
Antyodaya Anna Yojana	200
Mid Day Meal	415
National food for work programme	415
Nutrition Programme	415
Welfare Institutions & Hostels etc.	415
Annapurna	415
Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls	415
World Food Programme	415
SGRY	At Economic Cost
Village Grain Bank Scheme	At Economic Cost.
Defence/PMF	At Economic Cost
Bhutan	At Export prices decided by the Government
Open Sale ($)	

$: Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) rate for sale of wheat for the year 2006-07 (February and March 2007), was uniform across the board at the rate of Rupees 986.06 per quintal

Note: Under Mid Day Meal, SGRY and National Food for Work Programme, foodgrains are issued to States/UTs free of cost and the claims are preferred to the operating Ministry.